



**Correspondence:**  
**Tim Mathewson–Fire Meteorologist**  
**t2mathew@blm.gov**



# Seasonal Outlook

## *Considerations*

### Antecedent Conditions

- ☐ Recent Weather Pattern
- ☐ Temperature, RH and Wind 2012 (Severe Fire Season) vs. 2014
- ☐ Current Drought Conditions and Comparisons
- ☐ Precipitation Comparisons

### Prediction

- ☐ Predictors
  - ☐ General SST Anomalies
  - ☐ **ENSO**
  - ☐ PDO
  - ☐ MJO
- ☐ ENSO Forecast
- ☐ RMA Fire History
- ☐ Final Thoughts and Considerations for the Remainder of the 2014 Fire Season



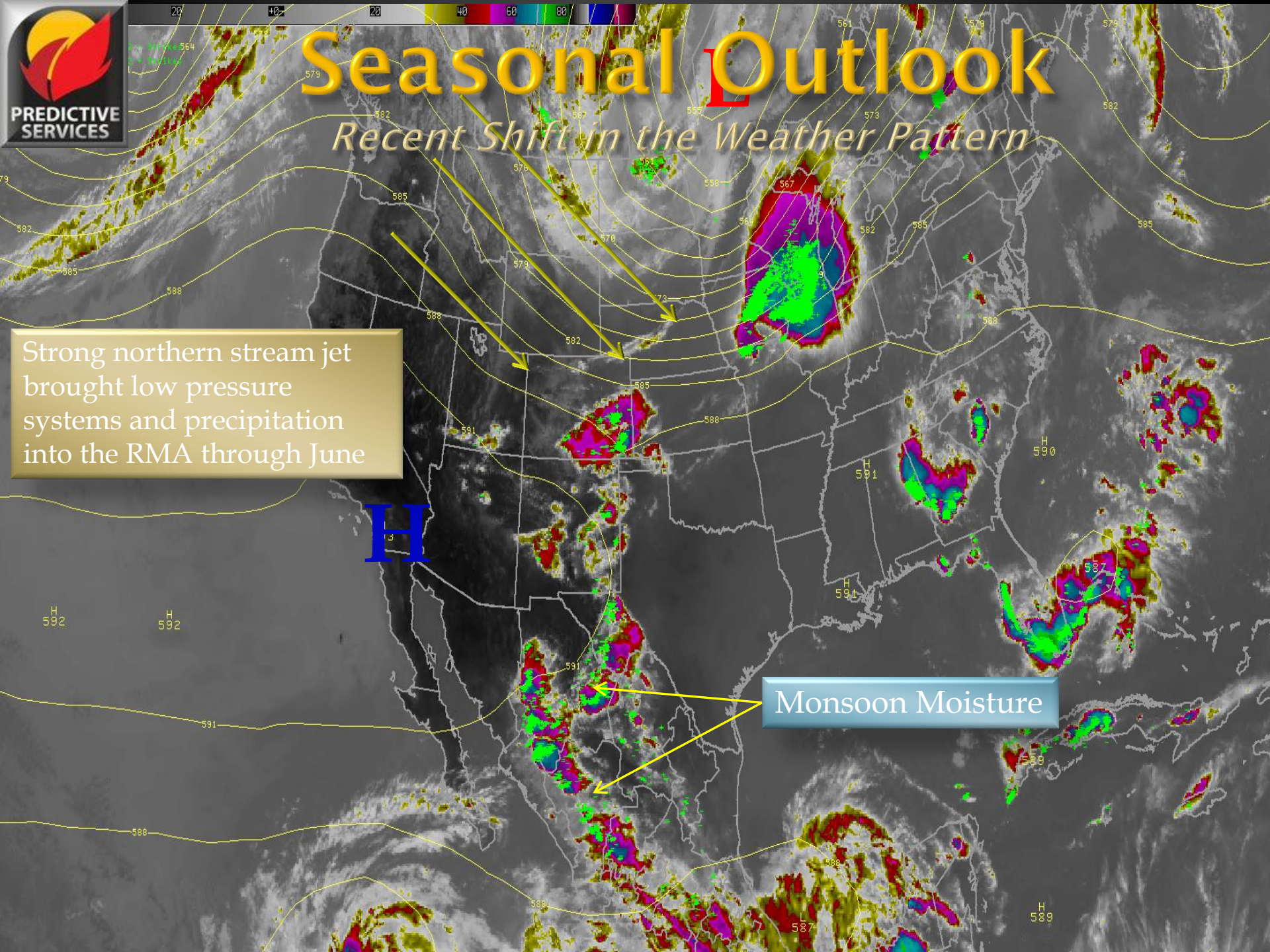
# Seasonal Outlook

*Recent Shift in the Weather Pattern*

Strong northern stream jet brought low pressure systems and precipitation into the RMA through June

H

Monsoon Moisture





# Seasonal Outlook

*Recent Shift in the Weather Pattern*

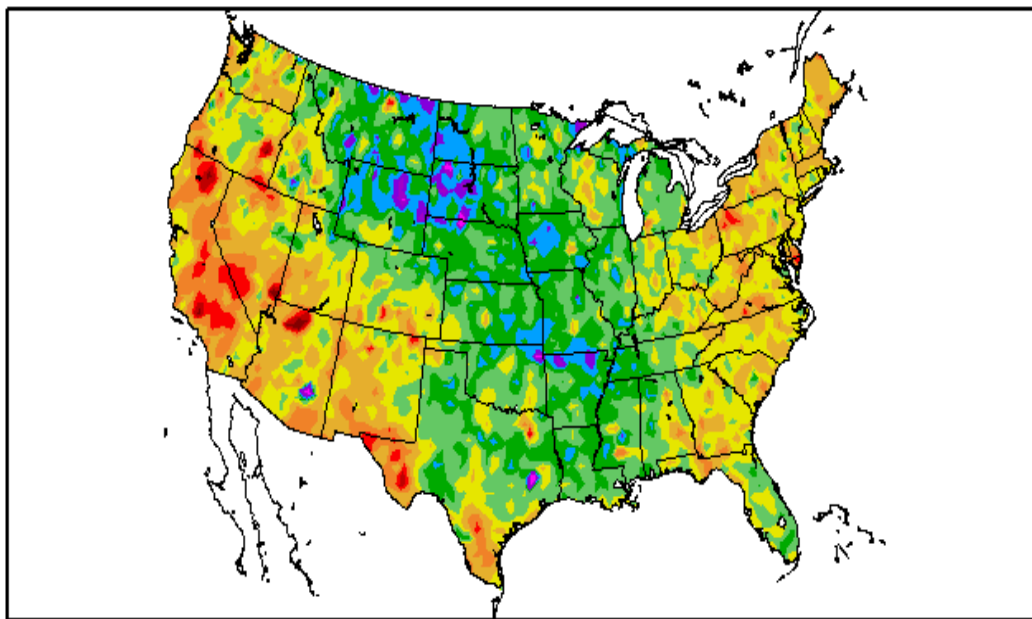


Onset of the Southwest Monsoon in Early July

# Seasonal Outlook

*Temperature Departure From Normal Since June 10, 2014*

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
6/10/2014 – 7/9/2014



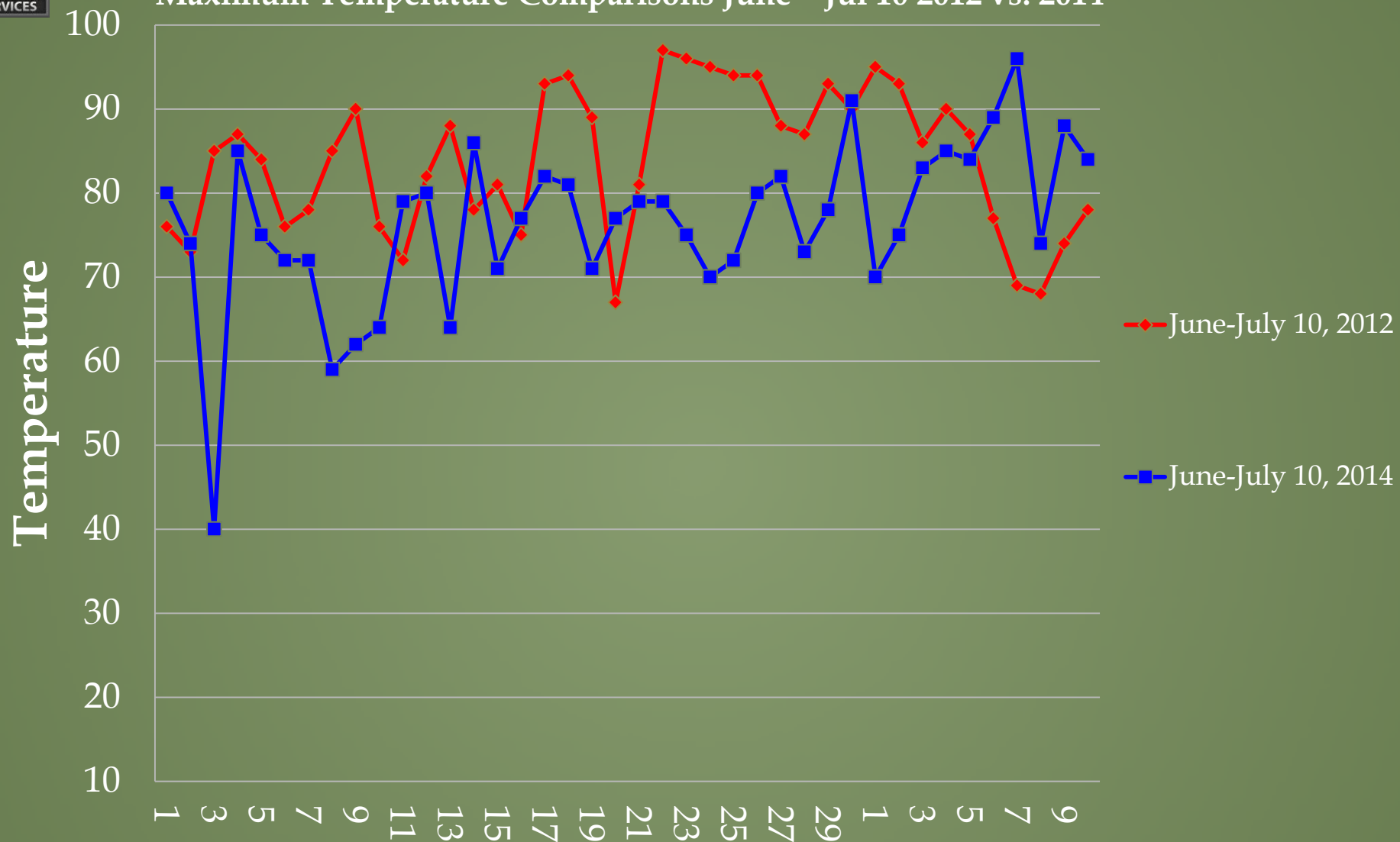
Below Average temperatures  
noted across much of the RMA  
over the last 30 days.

Near to slightly above average  
readings across western and  
southern Colorado



# Sugar Loaf RAWS Colorado (6733')

Maximum Temperature Comparisons June - Jul 10 2012 vs. 2014



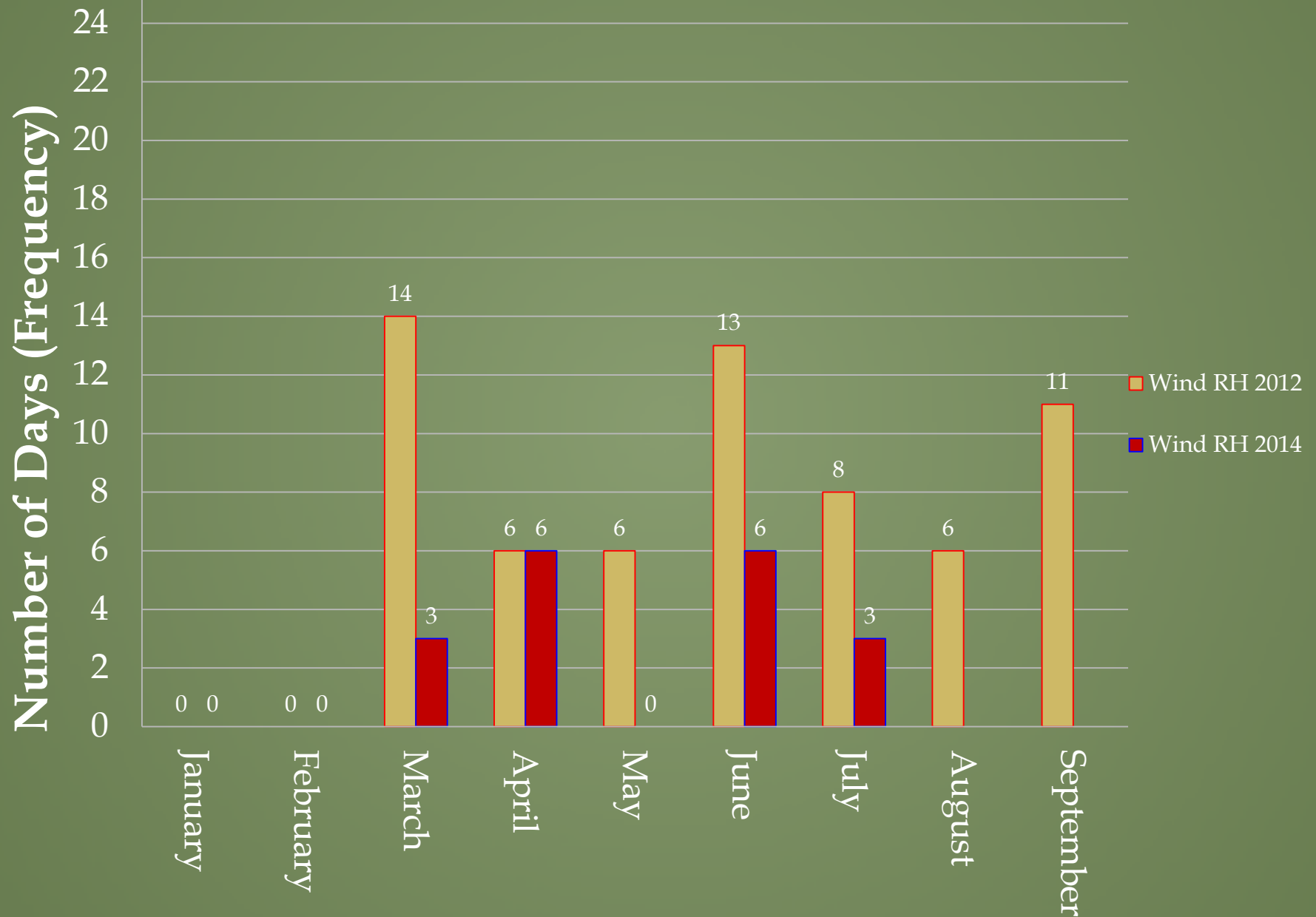
June-July 10, 2012 - 13 Days 90°F or greater

June-July 10, 2014 - 2 Days 90°F or greater



# Sugar Loaf RAWS Wind-RH Index

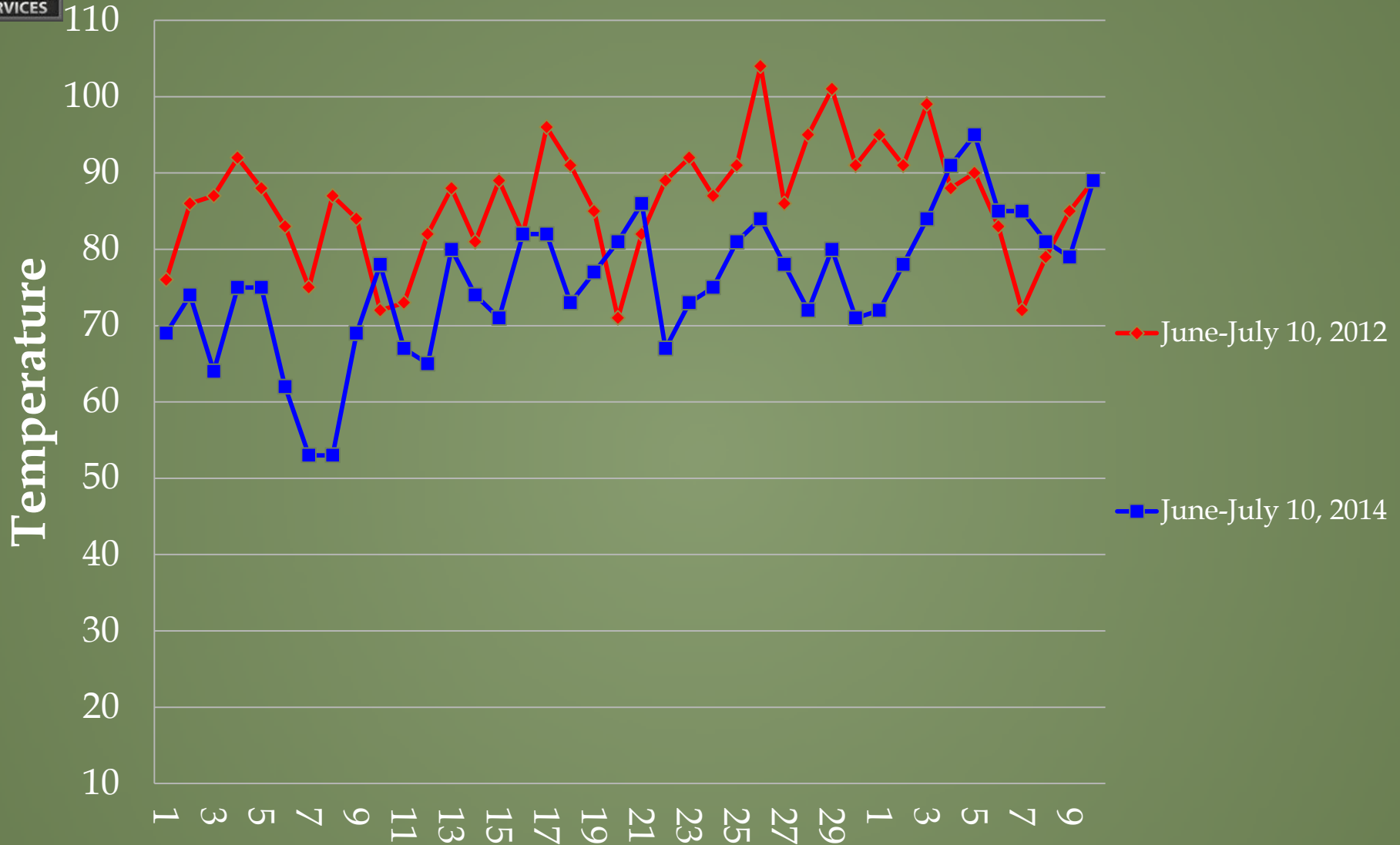
(Wind Gusts 25 mph+ and RH < 20%) Jan-June 2012 vs 2014





# Red Canyon RAWs (4644')

Maximum Temperature Comparisons March - May 2012 vs. 2014



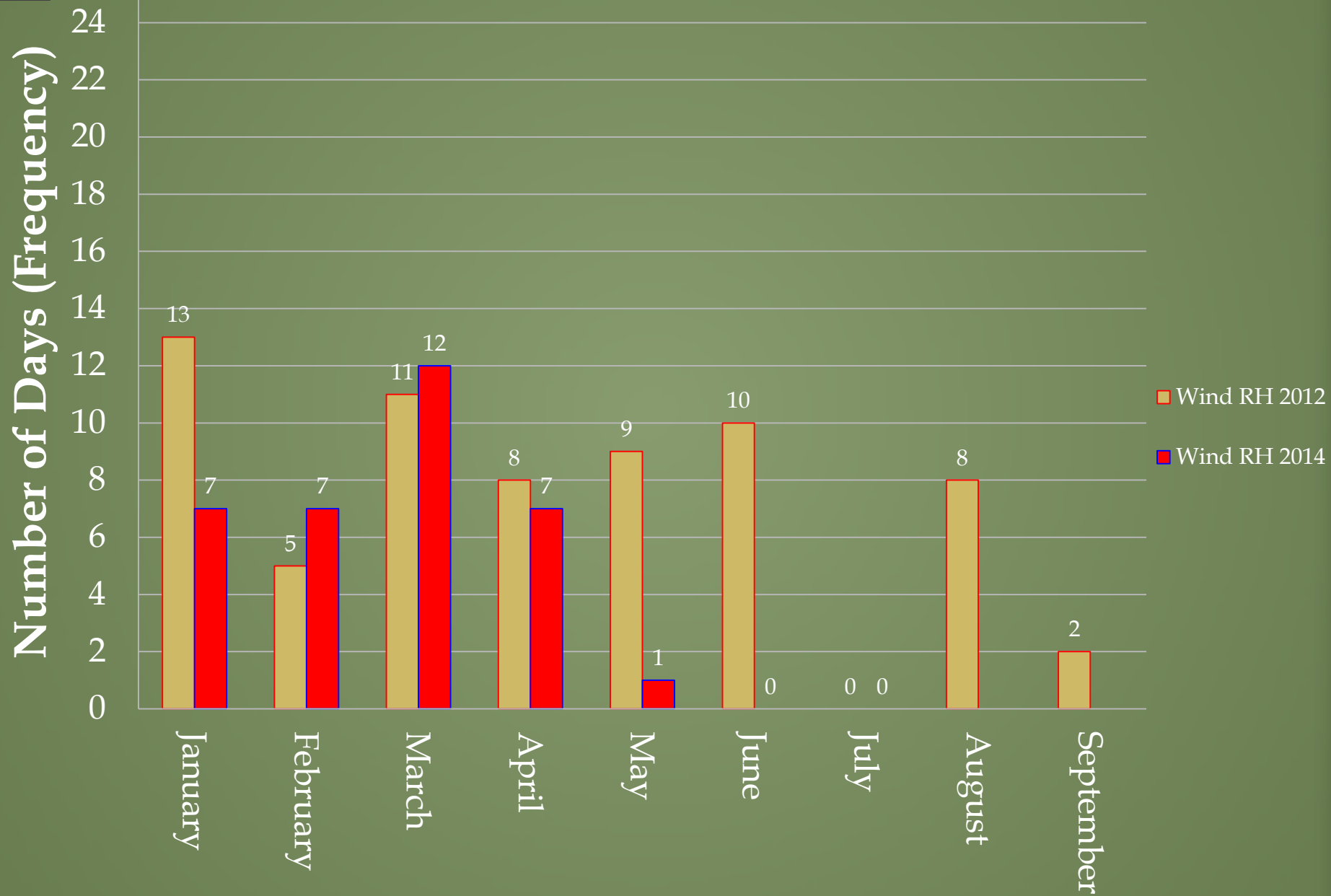
June-July 10, 2012- 13 Days 90°F or greater

June-July 10, 2014- 2 Days 90°F or greater



# Red Canyon RAWS Wind-RH Index

(Wind Gusts 25 mph+ and RH <20%) Jan-July 10, 2012 vs. 2014

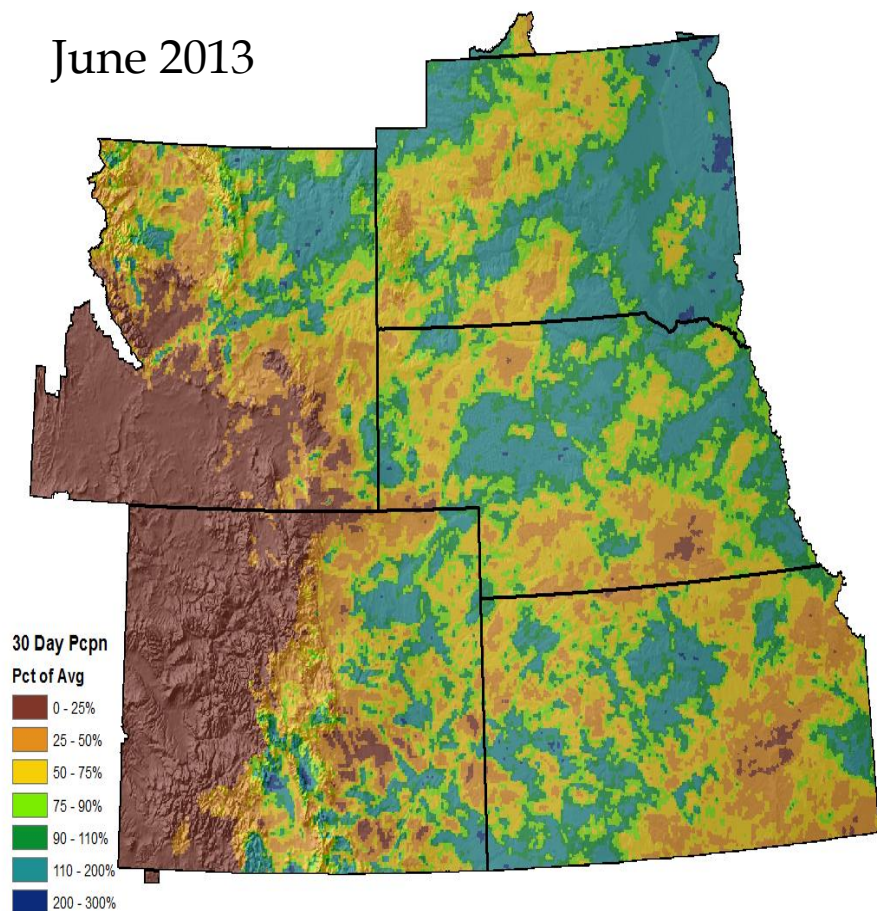




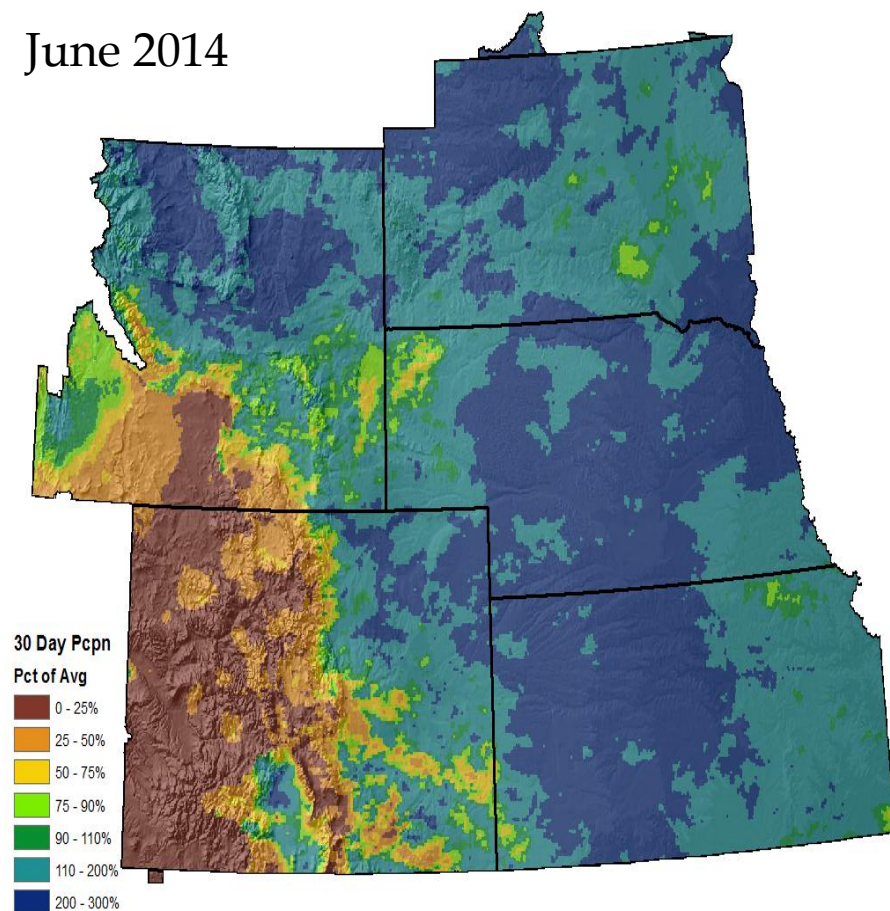
# Seasonal Outlook

*RMA 60-Day % of Ave Precipitation*

June 2013



June 2014



In terms of precipitation, similar pattern have occurred in 2014 vs. 2013.

# Seasonal Outlook

## Regional Drought Monitor May 2013 vs. May 2014

### U.S. Drought Monitor High Plains

July 9, 2013

(Released Thursday, Jul. 11, 2013)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	24.14	75.86	66.22	47.62	23.36	8.03
Last Week 7/2/2013	24.52	75.48	66.68	46.80	22.98	8.03
3 Months Ago 4/9/2013	4.96	95.04	91.67	80.57	53.33	11.70
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2013	1.54	98.46	93.01	86.20	60.25	26.99
Start of Water Year 9/25/2012	0.00	100.00	98.91	83.80	61.28	24.35
One Year Ago 7/10/2012	16.68	83.32	63.27	33.02	6.05	0.31

#### Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

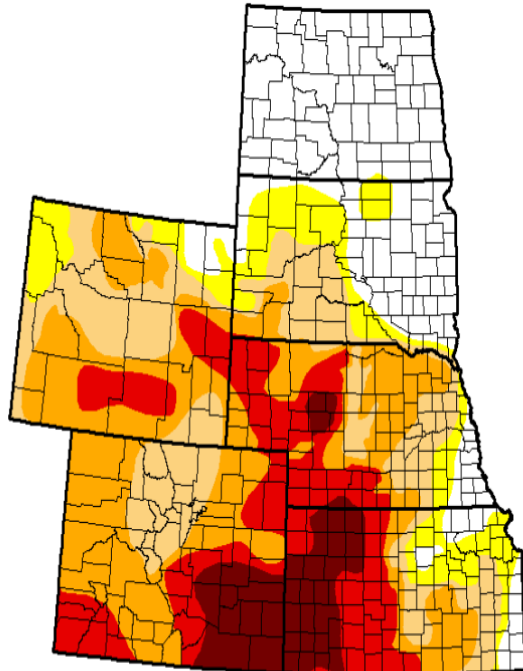
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

#### Author:

Matthew Rosencrans  
CPC/NCEP/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



### U.S. Drought Monitor High Plains

July 8, 2014

(Released Thursday, Jul. 10, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	65.69	34.31	22.26	11.20	3.65	0.25
Last Week 7/1/2014	65.67	34.33	21.44	11.20	3.95	0.39
3 Months Ago 4/9/2014	51.32	48.68	32.01	18.33	4.39	0.30
Start of Calendar Year 1/2/2014	45.79	54.21	20.60	12.28	2.44	0.30
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	29.87	70.13	43.21	19.50	3.01	0.30
One Year Ago 7/9/2013	24.14	75.86	66.22	47.62	23.36	8.03

#### Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
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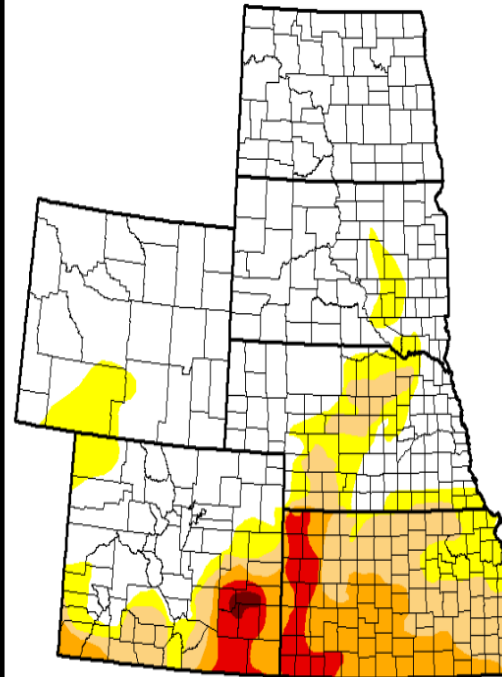
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#### Author:

Anthony Artusa  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Abnormally Dry



Moderate



Severe



Extreme

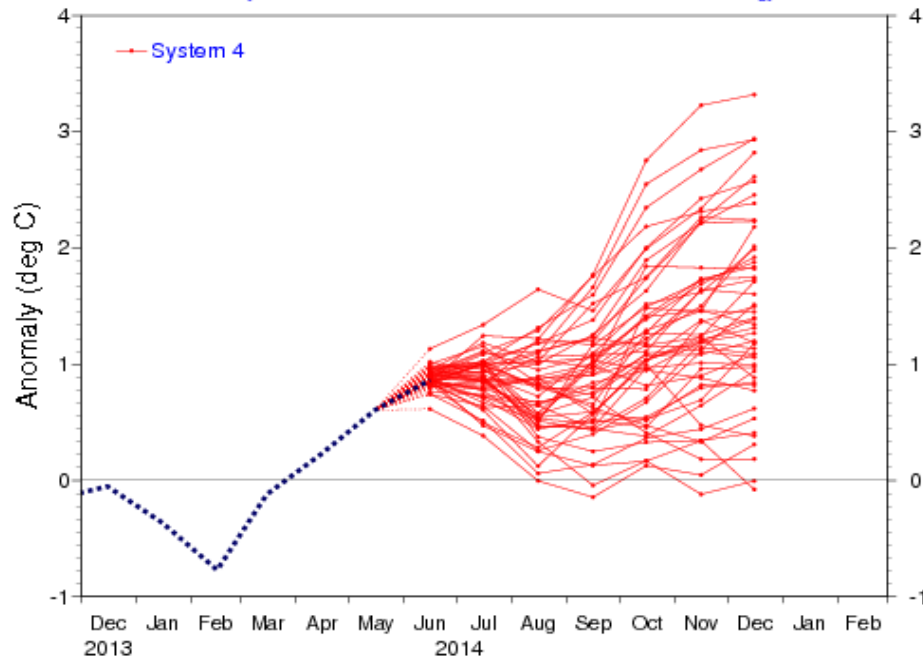


Exceptional

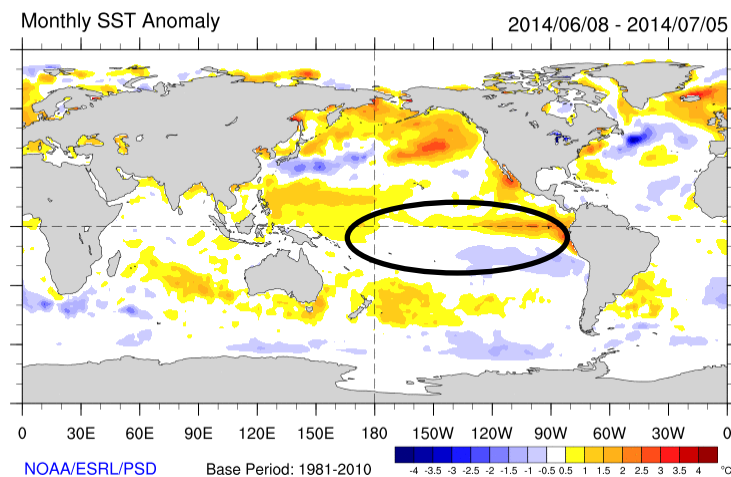
# Seasonal Outlook

## *El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Forecast*

NINO3 SST anomaly plume  
ECMWF forecast from 1 Jun 2014  
Monthly mean anomalies relative to NCEP OIv2 1981-2010 climatology

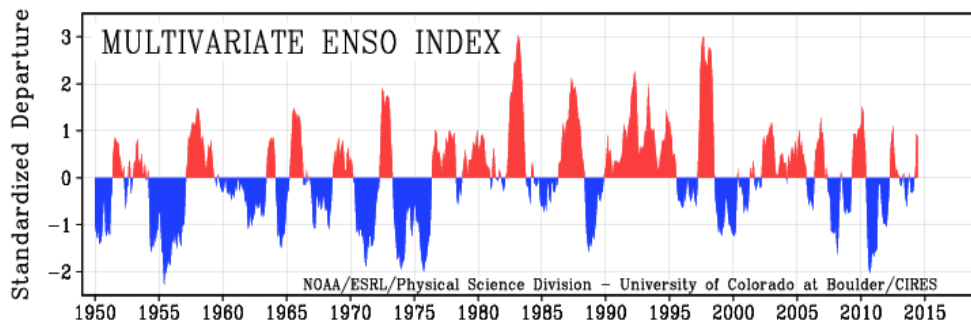


ECMWF

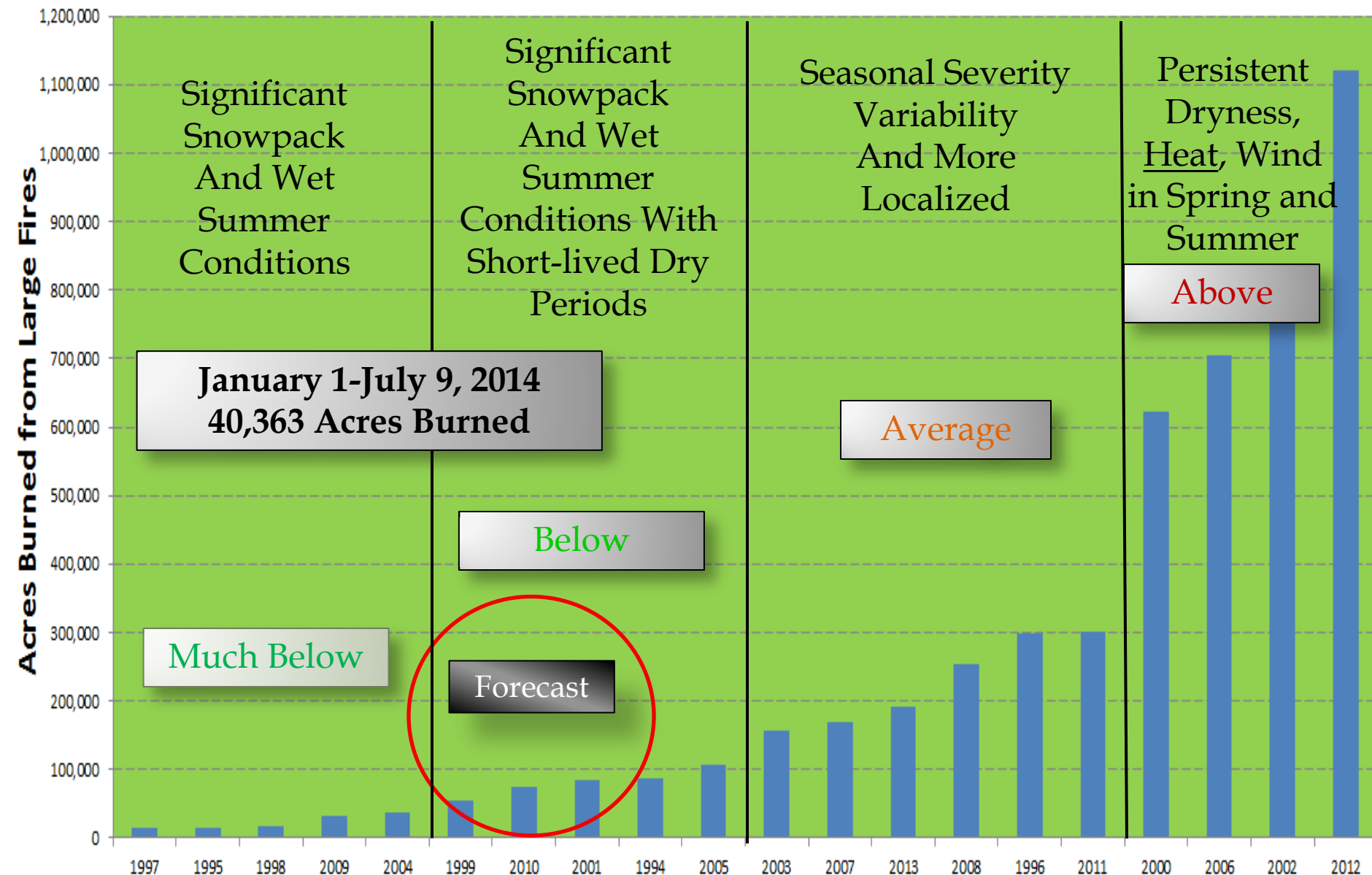


Current SST Anomalies  
Support Weak El Nino  
Conditions

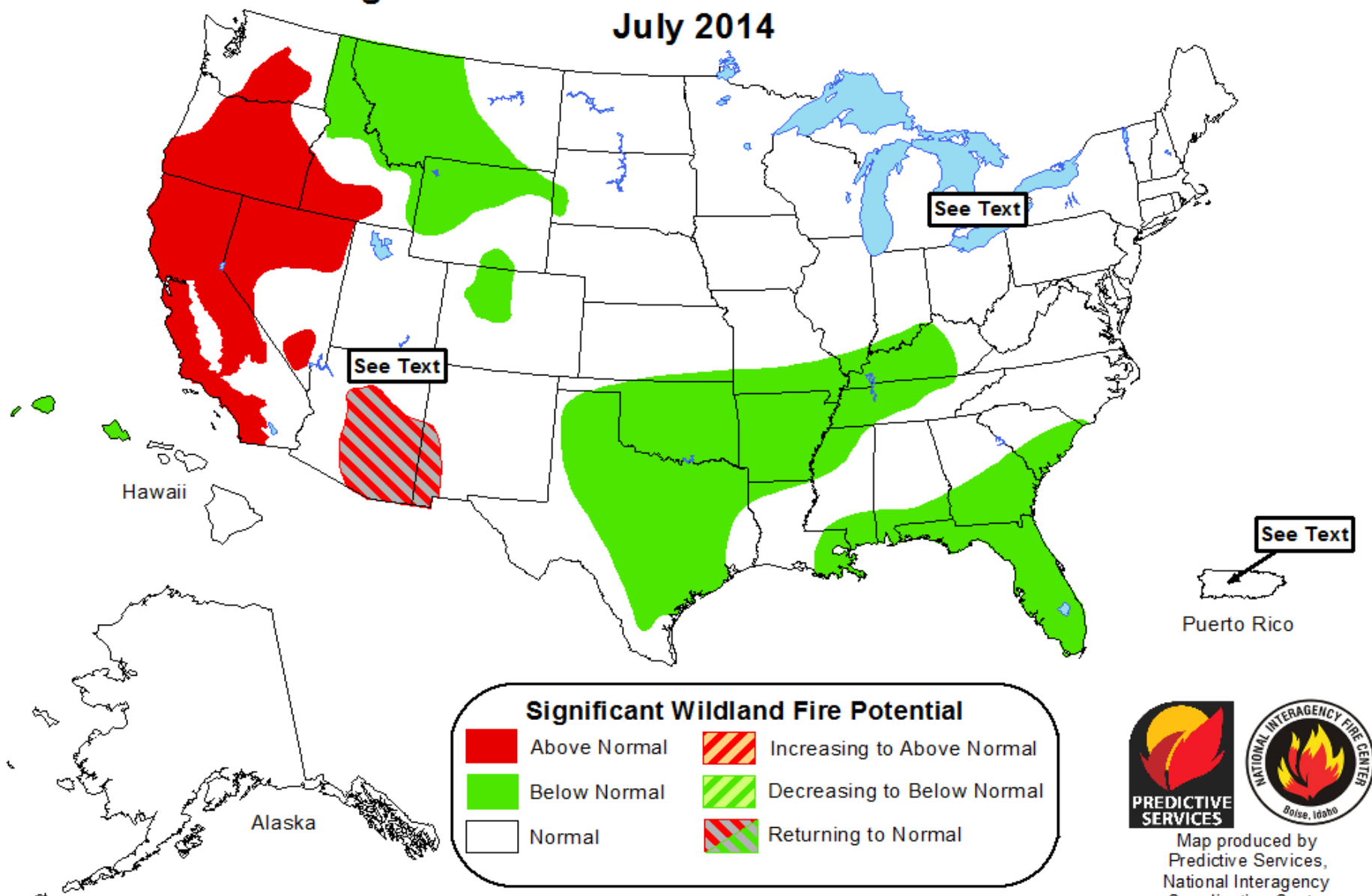
Weak to Moderate El Nino is  
Forecast for 2014-2015



# RMA 1994-2013



# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook July 2014



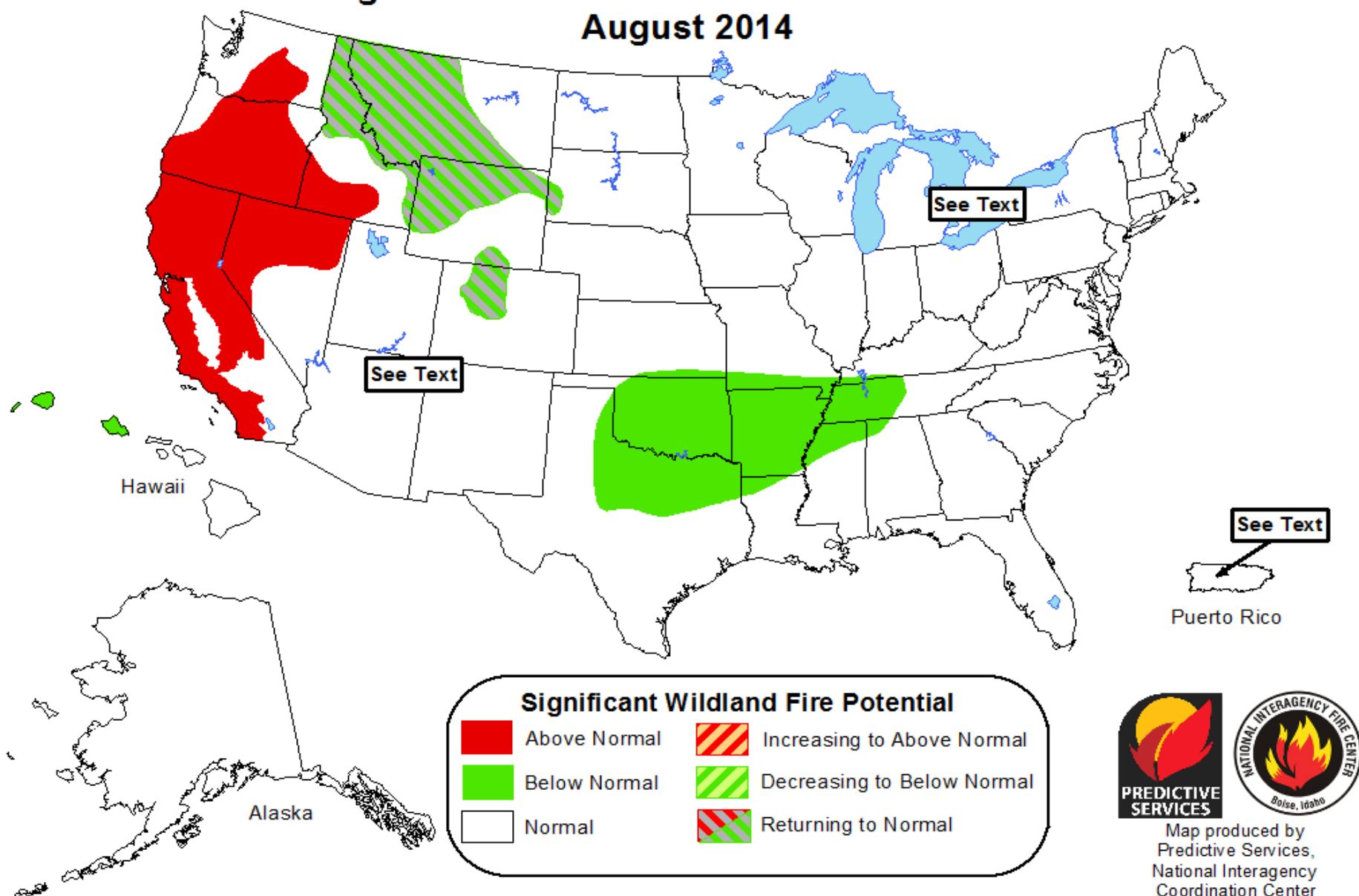
Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a higher than usual likelihood that wildland fires will occur and/or become significant events. Wildland fires are still expected to occur during forecasted normal conditions as would usually be expected during the outlook period. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



Map produced by  
Predictive Services,  
National Interagency  
Coordination Center  
Boise, Idaho

Issued July 1, 2014  
Next issuance August 1, 2014

# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook August 2014



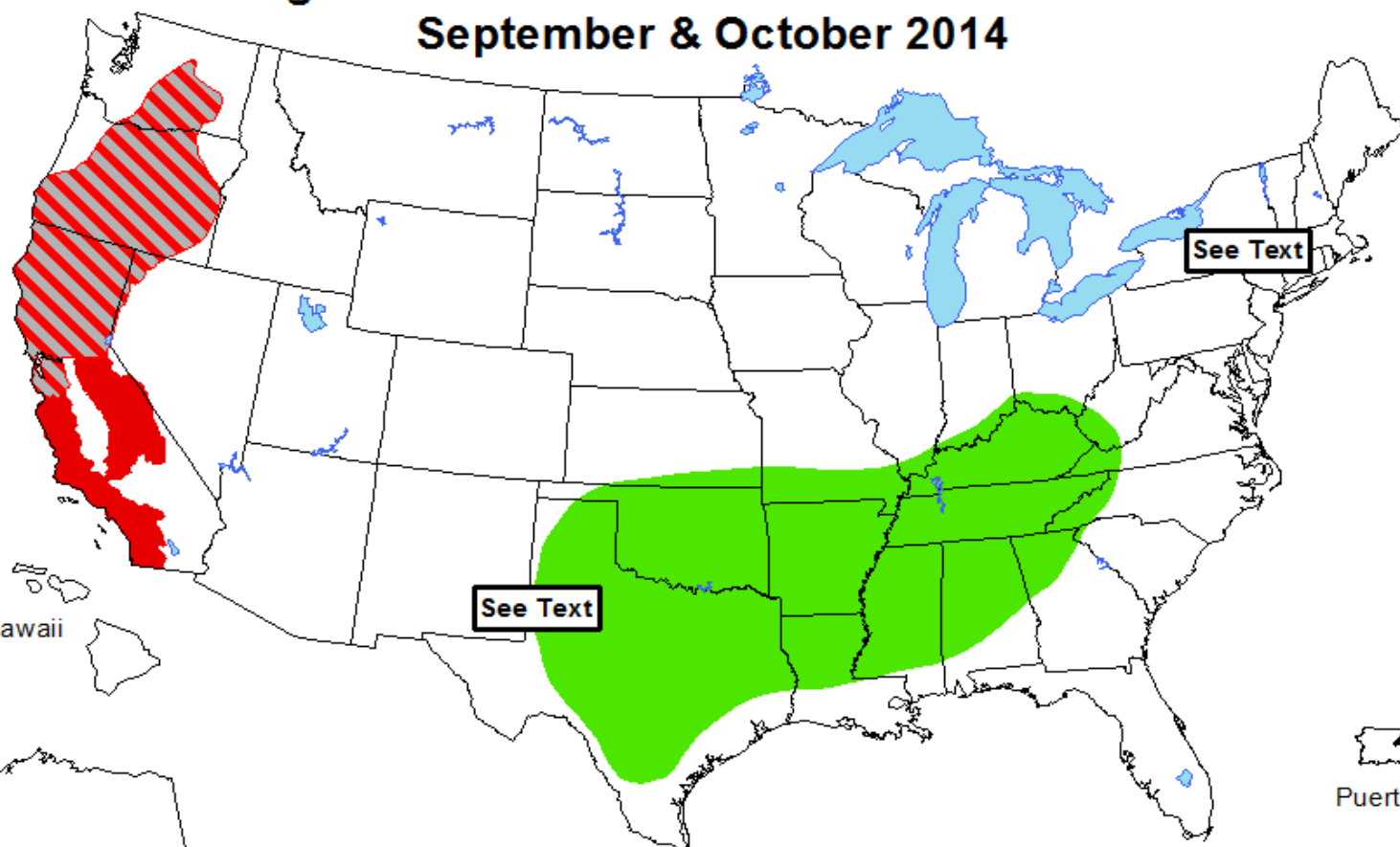
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Predictive Services,  
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Boise, Idaho

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# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook September & October 2014



## Significant Wildland Fire Potential

	Above Normal		Increasing to Above Normal
	Below Normal		Decreasing to Below Normal
	Normal		Returning to Normal



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Predictive Services,  
National Interagency  
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Boise, Idaho

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## Final Thoughts for the 2014 Fire Season Outlook and Considerations:

Heavy winter and early spring snow has essentially eliminated an early onset to fire season of the heavy fuel and complex terrain of the Rocky Mountain Area. The San Juan and Upper Rio Grande Regions of Colorado are experiencing long-term precipitation deficits, but better than 2013. Southwest Wyoming is also showing dry conditions similar to 2013.

Extreme temperatures (Heat) and High Wind-Low RH events have been less frequent than 2012. This trend is forecast to continue.

Drought conditions still linger across portions of the RMA in the south and east, but the situation has improved considerably from a year ago.

The Southwest Monsoon will bring average to above average moisture to the region through early August.

The grass crop across the Rocky Mountain Area is extensive.

Bottomline:

A repeat of one of our historical fire seasons such as 2012 or 2002 will not occur, and most indicators and projections continue to trend towards a below average fire season (See circled target area on large fire graph slide). Note: **Even during the wettest years, large fire activity has occurred.**

**The grass crop of 2014 raises fire concerns for late August into early October, as the dry cold front season develops. Stay tuned for the next outlook.**

Next Update of the season outlook broadcast will be by mid August 2014